

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE 5-11-88

FULL NAME JAMES H DECK JR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 (No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS [REDACTED]CITY Butte STATE MONTANA ZIP CODE 59701DATE OF BIRTH Dec 5 1963 (This is important and should be exact)APPROXIMATE AGE 24 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY Am. IndianOCCUPATION Fast Food Service, LaborerEDUCATION High SchoolWEIGHT 160 HEIGHT 5' 7" RACE Am IndianCOLOR OF HAIR Black COLOR OF EYES \_\_\_\_\_OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Martial ArtsMARRIED OR SINGLE Single CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number, ages, and names, if possible)NAME OF SPOUSE N/A

## SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
T 17	Great Falls	MT	SM		10-24-86

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:



SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL

M.M.L.-

N 23 1988

JUL 01 '88

F. STARON

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

RS-509

4/14/83-mah

Signed [Signature]  
SCOUT EXECUTIVECouncil MONTANA # 315

July 6, 1988

Mr. James R. King  
Scout Executive  
Montana Council, No. 315

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: James H. Deck, Jr.

Dear James:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter.  
This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent  
Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

pam

cc: North Central Region

READY TO  
JUL 7 1988  
ERIN C. ORILEY  
READY TO FILE  
JUL 7 1988  
ERIN ORILEY

CONF021996

# WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL # 315

PHONE NO: [REDACTED]

CALLER: James King

POSITION: SE

## TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

VETERANS \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLORING \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUTING \_\_\_\_\_

BOYS' LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

Add to CF file 4-B

James D. Dick Jr.

Under investigation for Child Sexual Abuse along with his father. Father has committed suicide so need to add him.

Have deleted James Dick Sr from

C 4611 and 51612

New Unit 51624 coming in. When it kicks out delete off and return with credit

Send CR sheets 1st class mail

4-27-88

Deleted unit and returned paperwork to council with credit #012100

NAME [Signature]

DATE 4-27-88

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

R/S-433

3/13/86-clf-567r





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

COUNCIL

No. 315 Date 5-5-88

REFER TO YOUR TRANSMITTAL REPORT NO. 46

☒ CREDIT NOTICE      ☐ DEBIT NOTICE

## REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION AND STATISTICAL SERVICE

REGISTRATION Unit No. 51624 term 12 months

☐ Unit charter fee of \$20. Received \$ 20<sup>00</sup> required \$ 0

☐ 2 Leaders (\_\_\_\_\_ prepaid) @ \$ 5.00 each. Received \$ 10.00 required \$ 0  
(\_\_\_\_\_ transfer)

5 Members (\_\_\_\_\_ transfer) @ \$ 4.00 each. Received \$ 20.00 required \$ 0

☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Members \_\_\_\_\_ Leaders listed on transmittal form \_\_\_\_\_ on application

☐ Transfers must pay \$.50 each. Expiration given \_\_\_\_\_ We have \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Not on transmittal report      ☐ Duplicate entry      ☐ No application received.

~~1~~ Correction made per your letter/telephone call \_\_\_\_\_

☐ No reply to our defective registration notice dated 11/1/06

☒ Returning Unit 1130 ☐ Under Age ☒ Over Age

**JOYS' LIFE** Term 12 months

☒ Paid for 2 subscriptions; listed \_\_\_\_\_ subscriptions. Received \$ 12.50 required \$ 0

Incorrect fees: \_\_\_\_\_ subscriptions. ☐ Back issues are not available.

☐ Please check attached copy. Pay debit—Use credit or return with copy of the roster showing corrections needed.

Please add or subtract the amount(s) indicated on your next transmittal in the proper column(s) and return the original.

BILLING					
Unit Charter Fee	\$ _____	Explorer	\$ _____		
Tiger Cub	\$ _____	Career Awareness Explorer	\$ _____		
Cub Scout	\$ _____	Leader	\$ _____		
Boy Scout	\$ _____	Boys' Life	\$ _____		
Varsity Scout	\$ _____	Total	\$ _____		
<hr/>					
CREDITING					
Unit Charter Fee	\$ <u>20<sup>00</sup></u>	Explorer	\$ _____		
Tiger Cub	\$ _____	Career Awareness Explorer	\$ _____		
Cub Scout	\$ _____	Leader	\$ <u>10<sup>00</sup></u>		
Boy Scout	\$ <u>20<sup>00</sup></u>	Boys' Life	\$ <u>13<sup>20</sup></u>		
Varsity Scout	\$ _____	Total	\$ <u>63<sup>20</sup></u>		



SCOUTING/USA

# Montana Council Boy Scouts of America

SERVICE CENTERS

May 12, 1988

MEMO: Regarding James H. Deck, Jr.

James H. (J.D.) Deck, Jr., was registered as Scoutmaster, Troop 17, Great Falls, Montana, while he was stationed with the US Air Force at Malmstrom, AFB. His father, James H. Deck, Sr., a one-time district executive and long time registered Scouter brought J.D. into this office for introductions. J.D. is an Eagle Scout, having earned the award in Butte, Montana, with his adopted father serving as Scoutmaster.

J.D. Deck was born on an indian reservation in South Dakota. He tells people that he was born in New York and is Jewish.

Following an incident with a local marshall arts club in Great Falls, he was asked to leave Troop 17 by the sponsoring organization in cooperation with this office. This series of events occurred in late October, 1986. Following his removal from the troop he was dismissed with a general discharge from the US Air Force and continued to work in Great Falls in a fast food resturant for several months. In late 1987, I was contacted by a representative of the Rotary Club in Whitehall, Montana, asking about J.D.'s fitness as Scoutmaster. Following our conversations, it was advised that under no circumstances was J.D. to be alone with young people or given any responsibility. At that time we did not realized the extent of the charges that he had been formally charged with in Great Falls. Copies of these charges and disposition are on file with the Montana Council and the BSA Registration Service.

On April 15, 1988, the Butte Newspaper reported that James H. Deck, Sr. had been shot and wounded by an adopted son. On April 25, 1988, James H. Deck, Sr. committed suicide by hanging in a public park in Shelby, Montana. The newspaper accounts of the alleged child abuse that had taken place in the Deck home and articles relating to J.D. Deck's member of a anti-terrorist group were published in the Montana Standard of Butte on April 26 and April 28.

On April 19, an application for a new troop chartered to the Rotary Club of Whitehall was processed listing James Deck, Jr. as Scoutmaster. Following conversations with the newspaper, legal counsel, county attorneys, council officers, local district executive and local area president, I called registration service and requested that this charter not be processed and placed the name of J.D. Deck in the confidential file. A letter to J.D. Deck along with a refund of his registration fee was prepared and signed by the Scout Executive in place of the council president. After several attempts by Chuck Halvorson, professional, and Jack Sherick, volunteer, to deliver this letter along with a local U.S. Marshall it was determined that registered mail was the only alternative. J.D. Deck had voluntarily committed himself to the Ridgeview Clinic in Butte, and in that point in time it was not known whether he was a patient at the clinic or had been released because of their confidentiality policies. Conversation with the county attorney in Silver Bow County point out that J.D. Deck has not been in trouble in that county nor was any investigation in process at that time. J. D. Deck signed for the certified mail on May 9, 1988.



United Way

CONF022000

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE  
OF MONTANA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASCADE

THE STATE OF MONTANA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES H. DECK, JR.,

Defendant.

No. ACC-86-243

S E N T E N C E

On January 5, 1987, the defendant, James H. Deck, appeared with his counsel, Michael Barer, and the State was represented by Deputy County Attorney, Antonia P. Marra, for the purpose of changing his plea and sentencing.

Plea Agreement and Acknowledgment of Waiver of Rights by Plea of Guilty was filed in open court.

The Defendant's Motion to withdraw his plea of Not Guilty was granted by the Court. The Defendant was duly sworn and testified as to the facts of the charged offense. The Defendant pled GUILTY to the crime of Count I: ASSAULT, A FELONY, and accordingly Court accepted plea at this time.

State's Motion to Dismiss Count II, Count III, and Count IV, Assault, Felonies and Count V, Unlawful Restraint, a Misdemeanor was granted by the Court.

Oral Stipulation by respective counsel that court may impose sentence at this time. Defendant stated there was no legal reason why sentence should not be imposed at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant, James H. Deck, Jr., be sentenced to two (2) year deferred imposition of sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant pay the \$20.00 surcharge to the State of Montana, to be paid through the Clerk of Court, Cascade County, Great Falls, Montana.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the Defendant is not on Formal Probation.

DATED this 7th day of January, 1987.

  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

cc: ✓CA/Marra

DA/Barer

Defendant c/o counsel

CCSO

GPRD

State I.D.

Corr. B.

Montana State Prison

Adult Probation and Parole

CONF022001

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE  
STATE OF MONTANA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASCADE

THE STATE OF MONTANA,  
Plaintiff,

vs

JAMES H. DECK, JR.,  
Defendant.

No. ADC-86-243

PLEA AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, on the 10th day of October, 1986, the County Attorney caused to be filed in the District Court of the Eighth Judicial District of Cascade County, of the State of Montana, an Information charging the defendant with the offenses of COUNTS I, II, III and IV: ASSAULT, FELONIES, and COUNT V: UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, A MISDEMEANOR;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS AND PROMISES CONTAINED HEREIN, IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED between County Attorney and Defendant and his counsel as follows:

I. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to the charge of COUNT I: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in violation of MCA section 45-5-201(1)(a) (1985).

II. Defendant agrees to obtain a psychological assessment and follow through on any recommendations.

III. In return, the Cascade County Attorney agrees to dismiss the charges of COUNTS II and III: ASSAULT, FELONIES, in violation of MCA section 45-5-202(1)(a); COUNT IV: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in violation of MCA section 45-5-202(2)(a) (1985); and COUNT V: UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, A MISDEMEANOR, in violation of MCA section 45-5-301 (1985).

IV. Michael G. Barer, attorney for Defendant, shall recommend that the defendant receive a two year deferred imposition of sentence and that he be assessed the \$20.00 statutory surcharge.

V. The Cascade County Attorney shall recommend a two year deferred imposition of sentence and that the defendant be assessed the \$20.00 statutory surcharge.

VI. Each party recognizes that sentencing in this matter is entirely within the discretion of the Honorable Thomas M. McKittrick, subject only to the limits of statutory and case law, and that the maximum penalty for Assault, a Felony, is imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed 5 years, or a fine of not more than \$50,000, or both.



VII. Each party understands that the presiding District Court Judge can designate the Defendant as a dangerous offender as well as limit his eligibility for parole and work release furlough programs.

VIII. Each party understands and agrees that a plea of GUILTY entered to any charge pursuant to this agreement cannot be subsequently withdrawn.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES H. DECK, JR.  
Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTONIA P. MARRA  
Deputy County Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL G. BARER  
Defendant's Attorney

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE  
STATE OF MONTANA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASCADE

THE STATE OF MONTANA,  
Plaintiff,  
-vs-  
JAMES H. DECK, JR.,  
Defendant.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION

The undersigned Patrick L. Paul, County Attorney of Cascade County, Montana, states: that an Affidavit having been filed and Leave of Court having been granted for the filing of an Information and before the filing of this Information, the above-named Defendant, JAMES H. DECK, JR., on or about the period July 24, 1986, through September 23, 1986, at Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana, committed the offenses of COUNTS I, II and III: ASSAULT, FELONIES, as specified in MCA section 45-5-201(1)(a) (1985); COUNT IV: ASSAULT, A FELONY, as specified in MCA section 45-5-202(2)(a) (1985); and COUNT V: UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, A MISDEMEANOR, as specified in MCA section 45-5-301 (1985).

The facts constituting the offenses are:

COUNT I: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in that the above-named defendant then and there being purposely and knowingly caused bodily injury to [REDACTED], a person less than 14 years old, to-wit: age 13, when the offender is 18 or more years old by hitting him with long bamboo sticks;

COUNT II: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in that the above-named defendant then and there being purposely and knowingly caused bodily injury to [REDACTED], a person less than 14 years old, to-wit: age 13, when the offender is 18 or more years old by hitting him with long bamboo sticks;

COUNT III: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in that the above-named defendant then and there being purposely and knowingly caused bodily injury to [REDACTED] a person less than 14 years old, to-wit: age 13, when the offender is 18 or more years old by hitting him with long bamboo sticks;

COUNT IV: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in that the above-named defendant then and there being purposely or knowingly caused bodily injury to [REDACTED] with a weapon, by hitting [REDACTED] with a 4' to 6' bamboo stick and a wooden sword;

COUNT V: UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, A MISDEMEANOR, in that the above-named defendant then and there being knowingly or purposely and without lawful authority restrained [REDACTED] so as to interfere substantially with his liberty by handcuffing [REDACTED] to a wrought iron railing for 1-1/2 hours and refusing to let him go; all of which is contrary to the form, force and effect of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

DATED ~~this~~ 10 day of October, 1986.

Antonia P. Marra  
COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Cascade County, Montana

STATE OF MONTANA )  
                              : ss.  
County of Cascade )

The undersigned, being first duly sworn on his oath, deposes and says: That he is the duly appointed, qualified and acting County Attorney of Cascade County, State of Montana; that he has read the foregoing Information, knows the contents thereof and the matters, facts and things therein stated are true of his own knowledge, except those things stated on information and belief and that as to those he believes it to be true.

DATED this 10 day of October, 1986.

Antonia P. Marra  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

WITNESSES ON PART OF STATE:

[REDACTED]  
Capt. Keith Wolverton - CCSO  
Deputy John Strandell - CCSO  
[REDACTED]

cc: County Attorney/Marra  
Defense Counsel - c/o Clerk of District Court  
Defendant - c/o Counsel  
CCSO

AFFIDAVIT AND MOTION  
FOR LEAVE TO FILE  
INFORMATION DIRECT

With this information, Deputy Strandell interviewed [REDACTED], age 14, [REDACTED], age 13, and [REDACTED], age 13. [REDACTED] told Deputy Strandell that he had started classes at the end of July, approximately July 24, 1986. The teacher was Jim Deck and he was enrolled in a weapons class. [REDACTED] told Deputy Strandell that he was continually hit with bamboo sticks and that at least four bamboo sticks broke while he was being hit by Jim Deck. [REDACTED] stated that Deck had hit him when Deck felt he was not yelling correctly or was not doing something properly. [REDACTED] also stated that if he attempted to apologize to Deck for making a mistake, he would be hit again. [REDACTED] stated that Deck would not hit him or any of the children if another instructor was in the classroom. [REDACTED] stated that the bamboo sticks were between 4' and 6' long and that a wooden sword of approximately 2' lengths was also used to hit him. Again, most of the blows to him were on his legs but he was also hit on the chest and the back and the back of the neck.

[REDACTED] father told Deputy Strandell that he did attend part of one session and saw Deck hit [REDACTED] across the back with a bamboo stick and saw that stick break. He also said that he had seen [REDACTED] come home with bruising on his chest, shoulders, back and legs. Again, [REDACTED] stated he had not told his parents because he was afraid of Deck and that Deck had told him that he would beat [REDACTED] up if he said anything.

Deputy Strandell also interviewed [REDACTED], age 13. Deputy Strandell spoke with [REDACTED] and his mother and she told Deputy Strandell that she had seen [REDACTED] come home with a very large bruise on his leg. [REDACTED] statement was very similar to those by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He stated that Jim Deck was the instructor of his class, had hit him with long bamboo sticks if he ever did anything Deck considered to be wrong. He stated he would get hit on his legs most of the time and that he was hit hard enough that it would bruise his legs and bring tears to his eyes. [REDACTED] stated that Deck specifically told him not to ever tell his parents he was being hit or he would get into trouble.


Deputy Strandell interviewed [REDACTED], age 13, at his home in Great Falls in the presence of his parents. [REDACTED] told Deputy Strandell that he had been involved with martial arts for a period of [REDACTED] years and that he had met Deck through being involved in martial

arts. ~~He~~ stated that when he was with two other youths he had ~~been~~ sparring with Deck and that Deck had taken out a set of handcuffs and handcuffed him to a wrought iron railing. Deck had left him handcuffed to that railing for approximately 1-1/2 hours and would not let him go. Deck teased him through the 1-1/2 hour time and finally gave him the keys so that he could reach for them and unhandcuff himself. [REDACTED] also stated that he had been hit during weapons class on the hands and legs with these long bamboo sticks and that it did bruise him and hurt him. Further, he stated that Deck had ~~thrown arrows at him which are wooden and fairly small and have metal pointed tips.~~

Deputy Strandell also interviewed James Deck, Jr. at the Cascade County Sheriff's Office on October 7, 1986. He advised Deck of his rights and then explained to him what the boys had stated he had done to them during martial arts classes. Deck admitted that ~~he had~~ disciplined the students he had during his class but stated he did not hit them, he merely "tapped" them for doing something wrong and used this as a form of discipline. He stated he was not aware that he had ever caused bruising to any of the boys and he admitted that he had "tapped them" between 3 and 6 times per session which is consistent with the statements of the boys.

The State of Montana will prove by testimony of the witnesses whose names are endorsed on the Information as well as the physical evidence recovered, that the Defendant, JAMES H. DECK, JR., did commit the crimes of COUNTS I, II and III: ASSAULT, FELONIES, in violation of MCA section 45-5-201(1)(a) (1985); COUNT IV: ASSAULT, A FELONY, in violation of MCA section 45-5-202(2)(a) (1985); and COUNT V: UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, A MISDEMEANOR, in violation of MCA section 45-5-301 (1985); that said Deputy County Attorney has investigated the facts surrounding the charges against said Defendant and believes there is probable cause to believe that the Defendant committed the offense here charged; and all of which was done contrary to the form, force and effect of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

DATED: October 10, 1986

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney  
Cascade-County, -Montana

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1986

Thomas M. McKittrick  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

O R D E R

Upon reading the foregoing Motion for Leave to File Information and it appearing that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant above-named committed the crimes charged;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that leave be granted to the above-named Deputy County Attorney to file the Information as asked for.

Defendant is to be admitted to bail in the sum of

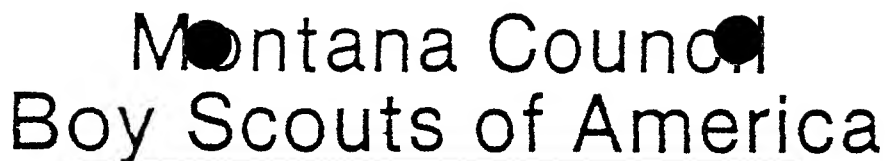
\$1,000.00

DOLLARS.

DATED: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1986

Thomas M. McKittrick  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

cc: County Attorney/Marra  
Defense Counsel - c/o Clerk of District Court  
CCSO



April 27, 1988

Whitehall, Mt 59759

Dear Mr. Deck:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should not be accepted. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve that right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of membership BSA seeks to provide for American youth.


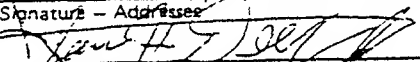
If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be granted or reinstated. The procedures for review are attached.

Sincerely yours,

James R. King  
Scout Executive

● **SENDER:** Complete Items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete Items 3 and 4.  
 Put your address in the "RETURN TO" Space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested.

1. ☐ Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's address.      2. ☐ Restricted Delivery  
     †(Extra charge)†      †(Extra charge)†

3. Article Addressed to:  James H. Dech Jr  Wh. Tehall mt 5425	4. Article Number  Type of Service: <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Insured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> COD <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail  Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and <u>DATE DELIVERED</u> .
5. Signature - Addressee X 	8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)
6. Signature - Agent X	
7. Date of Delivery MAY 9 1968	

CONF022010



May 6, 1988

To: Mr. Jim King.  
from: Chuck Halverson  
Subj: Letter delivery to J. D. Deck JR.

Tue, Wed & Thur I attempted to contact Mr. Deck by phone in order to find out when Mr. Scheick and I could deliver the Letter. The listed number in the phone book on [REDACTED] was disconnected

I also called the treatment center, but due to the Confidentiality act they would not release information.

On Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> I drove to Whitehall and with Deputy Sheriff F.R. Giono went to the residence. Mr. Deck was not home so we drove back to town. We checked with the Post office to see if they were still there and receiving mail, because the sheriff had served a conviction notice. The postmaster said we had just missed Mr. Deck (J.D.)



*The*  
**AMERICAN LEGION**

LOY J. MOLUMBY  
POST NO. 3

[REDACTED]  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59401  
[REDACTED]

Airman James H. Deck  
[REDACTED]  
Great Falls, Montana  
59402

Dear Sir:

Attached is a copy of a letter this American Legion Post has received from the Troop Committee and concerned parents of Boy Scout Troop #17.

In light of the problem which exists, it is within our sole authority as sponsors of this Troop, to handle the situation in a manner commensurate with our regulations.

Inasmuch as we have sponsored this particular troop for over sixty (60) years, we are not about to be put into a spot where persons can criticize us for lack of action.

Accordingly, it is the decision of this American Legion Post that you are hereby dismissed as Scoutmaster of Troop #17, and that you turn in any and all property in your possession belonging to the troop, and that you refrain from any and all contact with troop parents, committeemen, and boys in the unit. All actions on your part must be completed by October 24, 1986.

Thank you,

*Peter J. Corda*  
Peter J. Corda, Commander  
American Legion Post #3

CC: ✓ Boy Scouts of America (Diede)  
Troop Committee, Troop #17  
Post Files

JUSTICE COURT 3/12/86

James Henry Deck Jr., 21, Main-  
stream Air Force Base, charged with four  
counts of felony theft and one count of se-  
dition restrained

Oct 12, 1986

Oct 16, 1972

To whom it may concern:

As a concerned parent I feel  
that due to the circumstances  
that James Deck is no longer  
suitable to be the scout  
leader of my son's scout troop.  
Thank you,



By Karen McGrath  
Standard Staff Writer

James Deck, a Butte school psychologist who was being investigated for sexually and physically abusing some of the boys who lived with him at his Butte home over the years, committed suicide Friday night by hanging himself from a Shelby playground slide with his shoelaces.

The death may be the final chapter in a story that began to unfold just a week ago, when Deck was shot in the back by one of his five adopted sons. He was not seriously injured in the April 15 incident at the Deck home, 1415 Sage, because the bullets were partly deflected by a chair in which Deck was sitting.

The 14-year-old boy believed to have done the shooting remains in juvenile facilities at the Butte-Silver Bow Jail.

Another of Deck's adopted sons who fled with the 14-year-old after the shooting has been placed in a Family Services home in Anaconda.

The boys turned themselves in at the police station last Sunday morning after an intense 36-hour search by authorities had failed to find them.

A source in the Butte Silver-Bow Sheriff's Department said last week that Deck was being investigated for sexually and physically abusing some of the boys who lived with him. The alleged abuse was being studied as a possible motive into Deck's shooting, the source said.

But Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff Bob Butorovich said Saturday he did not know whether a possible impending arrest of Deck prompted his suicide.

The Montana Standard learned Saturday that a search warrant was executed at Deck's home Wednesday. The details of the nature of the warrant and the results of the search were not available Saturday.

The Standard also learned last week that the Butte-Silver Bow Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services had launched its own investigation into the child abuse allegations. (See related story on this page).

Sources close to the investigations told the Standard on Saturday the probes would now focus on why Deck, age 54 or 55 and divorced, was ever allowed to adopt five troubled youths.

School District No. 1 Superintendent Peter Carparelli, who has held the post for about one year, said he had received no complaints about Deck's performance as district psychologist, and

that he has received some continuing Deck's work with children. Carparelli said that Deck had after the shooting, but school him to return to work Monday.

Officials in Shelby were told that Deck had been visiting a friend in Canada during the week and was waiting in the border town for his son to pick him up.

Deck's body was found at Shelby's Johnson Park at 8:55 p.m. Friday. Toole County Coroner Jerry Murray said Deck died about 90 minutes earlier, judging from the body's temperature.

An autopsy performed Saturday indicated the cause of death was asphyxiation by hanging.

Murray said a woman who lives near the park, No. 10, who lives near the park, No. 10, was in the area when she and another woman found Deck's body hanging on the slide's ramp. Murray said Deck, dressed in casual clothing, had taken the shoelaces from his hiking boots and strung them around his neck.

The investigation determined that Deck tied the laces to the top of the slide, then slid down the slide's ramp, Murray said. The body was still on the ramp when Anderson discovered it, he said.

Anderson said she was sitting on her porch at about 6:45 p.m. Friday when she noticed a man walk into the park.

"It looked like he was carrying a heavy load," Anderson said. "Maybe that's the wrong thing to say, but he was just tired looking. A neighbor lady could see later that he was lying over there (on the slide) and it looked like he was sleeping. My neighbor wanted to know if I'd walk over there with her and I said sure. We went for our walk, and there he was on the slide. We didn't get close, but we could tell it didn't look right at all. He was halfway down the slide."

Anderson said she and her neighbor called police.

"We were just grateful we found him because the park is so often used by kids," Murray said Toole County officials "really are in the dark" as to why Deck chose that place to

Die. Four were mentioned in the note. He was saying goodbye to them."

Deck adopted five boys, and had at least one foster son. The eldest son, J.D. Deck, lives in Whitehall. Another son was among three youths responsible for toppling over more than 100 tombstones in a Butte cemetery in February. Deck said April 17. That boy is undergoing a 45-day evaluation at Pine Hills School in Miles City.

Sources said Saturday they were trying to locate the fifth son, who is either 7 or 8 years old. Murray said Deck's room at the Shelby motel was not in disarray.

Toole County Attorney Ray Kalbfleisch, who went to the motel room to determine its contents, was not home Saturday night and was unavailable for comment.

Arrangements were being made Saturday night with Scott Funeral Home in Whitehall to transport the body from Shelby, Murray said.

Murray said J.D. Deck had traveled late last week to Miles City to visit his adoptive brother at Pine Hills, and then returned to Whitehall. J.D. Deck then intended to travel to Shelby over the weekend to pick up his father, but was informed Saturday by Butte-Silver Bow authorities that his father was dead.

The elder Deck and J.D. Deck were at The Montana Standard on Wednesday afternoon to complain that J.D. Deck's name and place of residence had been used in a Monday story about the shooting.

J.D. Deck said that "neither my name nor my whereabouts are to be revealed."

He explained that he was part of an "anti-terrorist" organization and that the printing of his name and residence would force him to move.

When asked to provide evidence that knowledge of his location would be detrimental to him, the younger Deck replied, "You don't deal with the government much, do you?"

He refused to elaborate further.

During that meeting at the Standard, James Deck said he was aware they might be in violation of a gag order imposed on witnesses and

Please see DAD Page 8.

By Karen McGrath  
Standard Staff Writer

A former counselor at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings said a boy sent there from Butte told her in December that Butte school psychologist James Deck sexually and physically abused him.

Deck, the adoptive father of five boys and the foster father to at least one boy, committed suicide in Shelby on Friday night by hanging himself with his shoelaces from a slide in a park playground.

On April 15, he allegedly was grazed by bullets fired by one of his adopted sons, a 14-year-old who remains in juvenile quarters at the Butte-Silver Bow Jail.

Sources have told The Montana Standard that alleged abuse by Deck may have been a motive in the shooting.

THE BILLINGS counselor, who asked that her name not be used, said the boy sent to the ranch — a foster son of Deck's who was sent by juvenile authorities to Billings in October — "refused to go back to Deck's home."

The counselor, who quit her job recently because of inactivity on the boy's case and for other reasons she did not specify, said the boy did not detail the alleged abuse until she brought him to her home for a visit in December.

"It all came spilling out," she said. "He said there had been sexual abuse and physical abuse. He told me in exact terms what happened. He named 14 specific incidents, and it was all black and white. He never changed his story."

The boy told the counselor that he was abused along with other children in Deck's home. One of Deck's sons apparently slept in his father's bedroom, she said the boy told her.

The boy said he had been hurt by Deck because Deck "not only gets sexual pleasure from boys, but he also gets pleasure from violence," the counselor said.

The things I heard were horrendous to me," said the counselor, who refused to detail the alleged abuse. "No kid would make this up. It's the kind of abuse that I haven't heard of, even though I've been a counselor a long time."

"Deck's home sounds like a torture chamber to me."

THE COUNSELOR said she took an official statement from the boy, then turned the statement over to her boss. She said she expected immediate action on the case, but got no response.

The counselor said she finally composed a new report and handed it in. Please see ALLEGED Page 8.



DECK

# Deck accused of child abuse . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

delivered it to the state's Child Protective Services offices in Billings.

A counselor at Child Protective Services said last week that the agency refers abuse cases back to the county in which they allegedly were committed.

If allegations of abuse in Silver Bow County were turned in to Child Protective Services, officials there automatically would refer the case back to Butte-Silver Bow officials, the Child Protective Services counselor said.

A source familiar with the case told The Montana Standard on Saturday that a letter concerning the boy's allegations of abuse was received by the state's Social and Rehabilitation Services office in Butte

in February.

The counselor at the Billings ranch said two Butte-Silver Bow officials traveled to Billings in either late January or early February, and interviewed and videotaped the boy. She again heard nothing more about the case.

The counselor said she then discussed the case with Child Protective Services personnel, and they told her Butte-Silver Bow officials were not following through on the case "because James Deck is a school psychologist." According to the counselor, Child Protective Services officials told her they were considering an independent investigation.

Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff Bob

## Dad hangs himself . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

participants in the shooting case, but he said he was willing to break the gag order to protect J.D. Deck, and supported his son's story about being an anti-terrorist.

During a telephone interview Saturday, J.D. Deck said he didn't want details of his father's death released until he had time to make a statement. When told that The Standard intended to publish the story Sunday, he said, "I think the Silver Bow judicial system killed my father."

Butte Silver-Bow County Attorney Bob McCarthy refused Saturday night to comment on J.D. Deck's allegation. Brian Holland, who has been assigned to prosecute the boy who shot Deck, was not home Saturday night and was unavailable to comment.

Butorovich said last week that no detectives from his department traveled to Billings to interview the boy, and he did not know who may have traveled to Billings to do so. He said his department would step in only to make an arrest.

Officials at Family Services in Butte refused to comment on the case, but did say that Deck never worked in any capacity with the agency.

The counselor in Billings said Deck became a foster father to the boy after his parents died "and he was shoved to Montana to live with an aunt and uncle. They couldn't take him. So Deck took him, no problem."

The boy, according to the counselor, eventually was sent to the ranch for troubled youths after he abused another child.

"When kids are abused, they often become offenders themselves," the counselor said. "It happened in this case."

The boy, she said, told her he wanted to return to Butte "and blow

## Recount overturns pro-gambling vote

RIO VISTA, Calif. (AP) — A measure to build a gambling hall that initially was approved by two

up Deck's house. He wanted to save the other kids in there. He also told me that Deck's house was a pig sty with dog (excrement) all over. He said that when investigators would come around to check out the foster home situation, he'd have the kids working on the place all day to get it shaped up."

A Standard reporter and photographer who visited the home and interviewed Deck and the children for a 1985 Fathers Day feature noticed nothing amiss. The mobile home was "not spotless," but relatively clean, family pictures hung on the walls, and the children had a personal computer and other games about. The boys seemed "typical," the reporter said, active but not fearful or subdued.

The counselor said her greatest fear is that the boy at the ranch will be identified and humiliated for the alleged abuse he received from Deck.

Her purpose in talking about the case, she said last week, is "to get something done. The system wasn't working, and now I'm interfering with it. Those kids had to shoot Deck to get out of his house. I think that's shameful."



## Butte school psychologist found dead in Shelby park

BUTTE (AP) — A Butte school psychologist who was shot and wounded by one of his five sons last week has hanged himself, and the Montana Standard reported Sunday he was under investigation for possible sexual and physical abuse of some of his boys.

James Deck was found dead Friday night in a park in Shelby. Toole County authorities said he used his bootlaces to hang himself on a children's slide.

A former counselor at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch at Billings also told the newspaper that one of Deck's foster sons told her in December that Deck had abused him sexually and physically.

She reported the boy's story and Butte-Silver Bow welfare officials said they began an investigation, the newspaper said.

Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff Bob Butorovich told The Associated Press Sunday that he could not comment because of a gag order issued last week by District Judge Arnold Olsen regarding the shooting incident.

"It's all got to come out, but I think it's up to the judge whether he wants it to remain confidential," he said.

Toole County Coroner Jerry Murray said Deck, 54 or 55, left a suicide note in his motel room in Shelby but gave no exact reason for killing himself.

"It was written to his boys," Murray said. "Four were mentioned in the note. He was saying goodbye to them."

Deck adopted five boys and had at least one foster son.

Murray said Deck had seen two women, one of whom lives nearby and had seen Deck walk into the playground at Johnson Park, found the body at 8:55 p.m. Murray said Deck had been dead about 90 minutes.

Toole County officials were told Deck had visited a friend in Canada last week and was waiting in Shelby for the eldest of his adopted sons to pick him up.

On April 15, a 14-year-old adopted son shot and slightly wounded Deck with a pistol and fled with another teen-age adopted son, authorities said. The 14-year-old suspect remained in juvenile custody Sunday at the Butte-Silver Bow Jail.

The other son who fled has been placed in a Family Services home in Anaconda.

The two boys turned themselves in at police headquarters last Sunday after an intensive, 36-hour search by police after the shooting failed to find them.

A source in the Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff's office told the Standard that alleged sexual and physical abuse of the boys was being investigated as a possible motive in the shooting.

The source also said officials used a warrant to search Deck's home on Wednesday. The newspaper said neither the purpose nor the results were known.

The Standard said the Butte-Silver Bow Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services had begun its own investigation into the allegations of child abuse.

The Billings counselor, who asked not to be identified, told the Standard that Deck's foster son had been sent to Billings by juvenile authorities in October and "refused to go back to Deck's home."

She said the boy made his accusations against Deck when she invited the boy to her home for a visit in December.

"It all came spilling out," she said. "He said there had been sexual abuse and physical abuse. He told me in exact terms what happened. He named 14 specific incidents, and it was all black and white. He never changed his story."

She refused to give details, but said, "The things I heard were horrendous to me. It's the kind of abuse that I haven't heard of, even though I've been a counselor a long time."

She said she quit her job recently because of the lack of action by authorities thought to be investigating the boy's story, as well as other reasons which she did not specify.

She told the Standard she took a statement from the boy and gave it to her supervisor, expecting immediate action, but heard nothing. She said she eventually composed another report and gave it to the state Child Protective Services office in Billings.

She said two officials from Butte interviewed and videotaped the boy late in January or early in February, but she heard nothing further.

She said when she talked to Child Protective Services again, she was told that Butte-Silver Bow officials were not following through "because James Deck is a school psychologist."

The counselor told the newspaper her purpose in talking about the case was "to get something done."

"The system wasn't working, and now I'm interfering with it," she said. "Those kids had to shoot Deck to get out of his house. I think that's shameful."

# Troubles far from over for Deck children

By Karen McGrath  
Standard Staff Writer

The adopted and foster sons of James Deck are a troubled lot, and state and local investigators are trying to find out why. Shortly after Deck learned last week that he was under investigation for sexually and physically abusing children, the police were alerted to a "Shelby" playground — was frequent often by children. The Shelby woman who found Deck's body said she is grateful it was she, and not a child, who found the body lying on a slide at Johnson Park. It was a troubled end to an apparently troubled life. And the boys who entered Deck's home left it with major troubles of their own:

- A 15-year-old adopted son is undergoing an evaluation at Pine Hills School in Miles City. Before his death, James Deck said the boy was one of three youths responsible for pushing over more than 100 tombstones at a Butte cemetery in February.
- A 14-year-old adopted son, also is undergoing an evaluation at Pine Hills. He allegedly was injured in the shooting. Officials have said they are investigating whether sexual and physical abuse was a motive in the attack.
- A third adopted son, 13, who is the natural brother of the 14-year-old, allegedly fled with his brother after

## The more we dug, the more scared we became — a Great Falls martial arts teacher said of J.D. Deck

the shooting and was a fugitive for 36 hours until the siblings turned themselves in to Butte authorities. The 13-year-old has been placed by authorities in an Alameda group home.

- A fourth adopted son, either 7 or 8 years old, was taken from Deck's home April 21 when authorities learned he was there. He is in a foster home.
- Deck's oldest son, 18, is in a psychiatric hospital, travels with a carnival. His whereabouts are unknown.
- A foster son of Deck's was sent in October from Butte to the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings after he allegedly abused another child. A former counselor at the ranch said children often become offenders themselves after being abused, and that apparently happened in this case. The counselor said the boy claimed he was sexually and physically abused and abused Deck's home sounded to her like "a torture chamber."
- The boy, the counselor believes, is now improving. "Once a kid starts talking about his problems, he's on his way to being healthy again."
- James H. Deck Jr., also known as J.D. Deck, lives in Whitehall and has also been convicted of assault on a child while he was serving with the Air Force.
- The 24-year-old J.D. Deck was his father's closest confidante, according to the Billings counselor, and also may have been affected by the alleged abuse attributed to his father, if the counselor's theory is correct.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES has begun an investigation into the Deck case. Director Gene Huntington said the probe will center on whether the department's policies were violated when adoption workers placed so many troubled boys in one home

Deck's home

Court records obtained by The Montana Standard from Cascade County show J.D. Deck pleaded guilty in 1987 to felony assault for beating a boy. J.D. Deck, who was a free-lance martial arts instructor in Great Falls, had been charged in October 1986 in Great Falls District Court with four felony counts of assault and one misdemeanor count of unlawful restraint. According to court documents, a Cascade County deputy sheriff interviewed a 15-year-old boy who told the sheriff that he had performed in a way that "displeased" Deck. Deck was in a room with a long bamboo stick. "The boy said 'he was hit me several times at each class period in the legs and on the chest and back.'"

Other boys had similar stories, and one boy related to authorities how Deck handcuffed him for 30 minutes. "Deck teased him through the hour time and finally gave him the keys so that he could reach for them and un-handcuff himself," court documents say.

J.D. Deck ultimately entered a plea bargain agreement with prosecutors, and on Jan. 5, 1987, he pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault. He was given a two-year deferred sentence. District Judge Norman M. McKittrick told Deck that if he got into trouble during that two-year period, he'd see him back in court.

A MEMBER OF THE GREAT FALLS MARTIAL ARTS community said J.D. Deck has misrepresented himself to instructors there on a number of occasions. According to Ray Walters of Great Falls, president of the USA-Korean Karate Association, in 1983 or 1984, J.D. Deck, then an Airman with the Air Force based at Malmstrom Air Force Base, had been teaching several martial arts instructors and expressed an interest in learning Judo, a form of martial arts concentrating on swords and sticks.

Walters said Deck displayed a proficiency with such weapons. Walters said he did a routine background check on Deck and found that he was an Air Force security guard and that his father was a psychologist. Such checks are conducted to prevent people with criminal records from teaching martial arts, Walters said. At first, Walters said, he believed Deck might be a worthy instructor.

"But then he told me a couple of things that were weird," Walters said. "He indicated he was an Israeli. His story changed a couple of times. He said he was having difficulty at the base as far as dealing with studying written things. He said English was his second language."

Deck is an Indian originally from South Dakota, Walters said, adding that he believed Deck's learning habits contributed to Deck's reading and writing problems. Despite Walters' worries, J.D. Deck began teaching martial arts on a free-lance basis to children at homes at the Air Force base and at another class for children.

Walters said he didn't hear of any major problems with Deck's teaching until the parent of a Great Falls boy called him and reported that the boy was being beaten by martial arts teachers were a part of the martial arts routine.

"The parents told me he was beating kids with bamboo sticks," Walters said. "He was beating them so hard that one of the sticks broke. He apparently was toughening them up, disciplining them."

Officials at the karate association immediately investigated, and "the more we dug, the more scared we became," Walters said. "We found out that the parent of the boy who said Deck was beating him was a teacher at the Black and Blue marks."

Karate officials notified law enforcement authorities and Deck's superiors at Malmstrom, and his duties allegedly were immediately cut back, Walters said.

## Deck ousted as Falls scout leader, but still heads troop in Whitehall

By Karen McGrath  
Standard Staff Writer

J.D. Deck, who was terminated as a Boy Scout troop scoutmaster in Great Falls after pleading guilty in January 1987 to felony assault for beating a young martial arts student with a bamboo stick, currently leads a Boy Scout troop in Whitehall.

King, executive for the Montana Council of the Boy Scouts of America, said Wednesday he is trying to find out how Deck became a Whitehall scoutmaster when he had been convicted of assaulting a child.

Deck is the 24-year-old adopted son of Butte school psychologist James Deck, who hanged himself Friday after learning Butte officials were investigating him for sexual and physical abuse of his adopted and foster sons.

OFFICIALS AT THE local and state level continue to investigate whether someone other than James Deck was responsible for abuse at the Deck home. King said J.D. Deck was a scoutmaster for the Great Falls troop after he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The troop's sponsor, a Great Falls American Legion post, asked Boy Scout officials to terminate Deck's relationship with the troop after he pleaded guilty in January 1987 in Great Falls District Court in January for beating a martial arts student with a bamboo stick.

Deck protested the termination, but King said he told him "the American Legion was questioning his rights as a partner in the organization to ask for the termination."

King said he was not sure why the American Legion post asked for termination, other than information

nation the post had that Deck had been involved in altercation with a boy. King said Wednesday that Deck had in fact been charged with four felony counts of assault and one misdemeanor count of unlawful restraint for handcuffing a boy to an air-railed. King said he didn't realize the charges were that "strong."

King said he is unsure why Deck's Boy Scout records in Great Falls were not scrutinized when he became a scoutmaster in Whitehall, heading a troop composed of three of his adoptive brothers and two other boys.

IN ALL CASES, Boy Scout officials routinely conduct a background check when a person applies to be a scoutmaster, King said. In Deck's case, he said, "somebody missed something."

King said he became concerned about J.D. Deck when he read a recent news story about James Deck's suicide. In the story, J.D. Deck described himself as being an anti-terrorist while serving in the armed forces.

King said that and knew something was wrong.

The Montana Council of Boy Scouts was trying Wednesday to locate Rotary Club officials who sponsor the Whitehall Boy Scout troop headed by Deck. King said Rotary Club officials likely would ask for Deck's termination when they learned of his criminal record.

"We have an obligation and responsibility to the parents of those kids," said King, who added that he suspended upon Deck's termination.

King said he had contacted the council's attorney about the matter Wednesday.